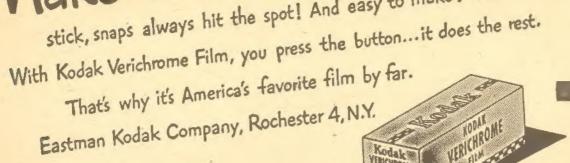


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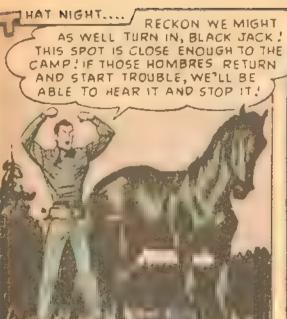




























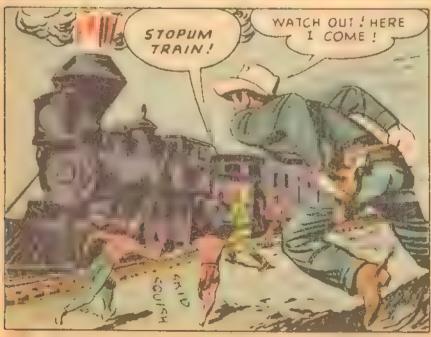








































































HE PASSED OUT AGAIN BUT











DON'T LET

HIM GIT







IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO

REASON WITH THIS



THAT HANDCAR!









































































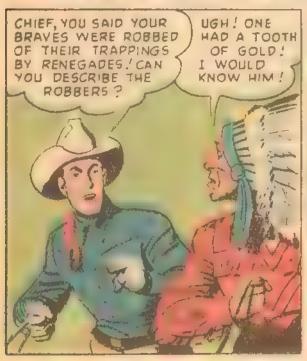






























CHIEF THUNDER CLOUD AND HIS BRAVES HELP ME GET YOUR STOLEN SUPPLIES BACK ... TO KEEP YOU FROM STARVING! YOU SHORE ARE A SQUARE-SHOOTER. ROCKY LANE

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LYNCHING WHILE ROCKY LANE

IS ALIVE! CALL THE SHERIFF! MEANWHILE, I'M PUTTING HIM

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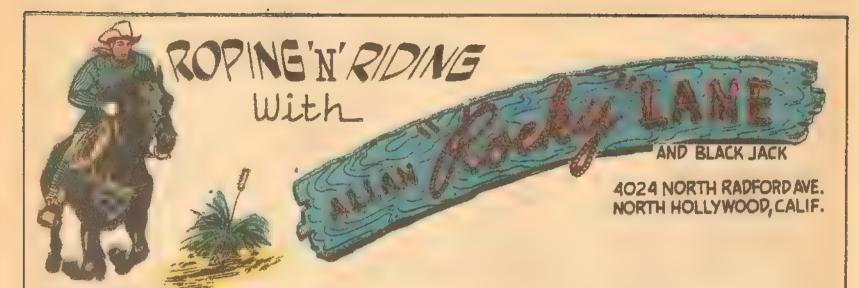
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ONLY 10° AT YOUR LOCAL NEWSSTAND!

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Houdy Pardners o

DME

Things are sire poppin around the Republic Studios these days. More Activity than Black Jack and I ever saw before. We're a lot busier than that el' red hen you've heard about a-hatchin' her fourteen baby chicks. We're really diggin' in — no time for us to just sit around and think. No sires, we're making one fast action movie after another. Black Jack joins me in hoping you like them as much as we liked making them.

The most recently completed ones carry these titles: "DEATH VALLEY GUNFIGHTER", *NAVAJO TRAIL RAIDERS". "SHERIFF OF WICHITA", and "FRONTIER INVESTIGATOR". All of them full of the Old West, with lots of hard ridin', fast shootin', and plenty of knock down, drag out, hand-to-hand fist fightin'. Black Jack helps to save the day, as well as my scalp, in a couple of them, too. Gosh, what a pal he is. I couldn't get along without that horse. No sir, I couldn't.

Say, pardners, you know this crime prevention program that's been in full 5wing all over the country these past few months? Well, it's taken up most of my spare time. I've managed to talk to a lot of you, but doggon' it, there's still just thousands and thousands of you, spread out all over, that I've missed. I hope these next few words are read carefully and remembered by those of you I didn't get to talk to in person.

Did you ever take time to think about the lesson in life that's to be found in each movie Black Jack and I make for you? It's contained in the strips of this magazine also. Actually, you are always being reminded of why folks should always stay on the right side of things if they expect to win out in their life. And how they are bound to wind up a big loser if they slip over to the wrong side.

Remember always, right is might, and the bad folks ALMAYS pay the top price in the end, no matter how many they outnumber the right folks or right side.

Now the only way you can be sure you are starting on the right side is by following this simple rule. Always do exactly that your guardian asks you to do, no matter whether that guardian is your daddy, your monmy, your older sister, elder brother, relative or teacher. Never sass or talk back to him or her, in any way. Never. They are older and usually wiser than you, because of their greater experience. They will never tent you to do anything that will harm you, 'cause, you see, they love you. Early training and the development of good habits is what counts later on. If you're good kids now, it'll be easy to be good citizens when you are older and on your own.

You'll make me very happy and proud of each and every one of you if you'll promise me you'll try. Promise Black Jack and me, will you? Ah, ha, that's swell - thanks a lot, pardners. May God make you and keep you one of his favorites always.

So long for nor. See you from the screen, or from the pages of the mext issue of this magazine.

Your pals.

allan Bocky Fane

Allan "Rosky" Lane and Black Jack

P.S. Stack Jack and I are passing out eigers again. He's the proud pape of another outstanding all black, baby herse celt. It's a boy. I'll try to have a picture of him in one of the ferthcoming issues of this magazine, if you'd like to see him.

"Reaky"





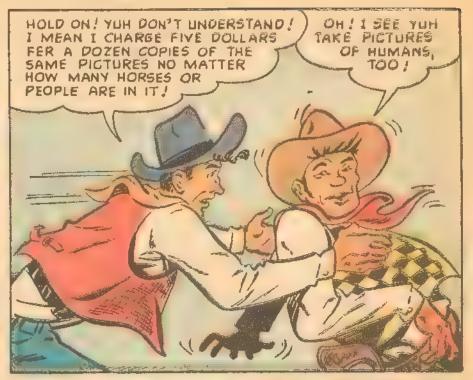














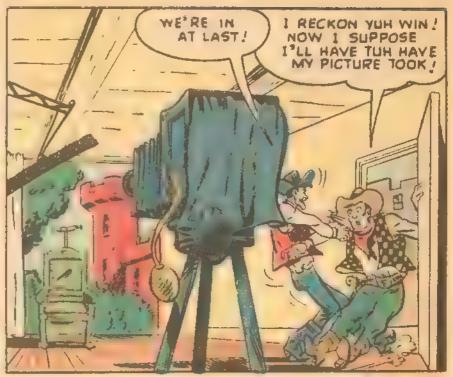




































RELIABLE RUSTLER

By WALTER FARMER

the man across the table. There was no mistaking the face, the slit eyes, the deep scar across the forehead, the black hair coming to a widow's peak in the middle. Ramrod knew he had seen that face before.

He had seen it in a WANTED poster. No matter what name he was using now, the man was definitely Killer Candra, wanted for murder and other crimes down Texas way.

Ramrod ate his chow and said nothing. He was not a lawman. He was merely a top hand who jobbed around at whatever ranch would give him the best work at the most pay. He did not stick his nose into other people's affairs. The code of the west said it wasn't generally too healthy to inquire about another man's past.

Yet, deep within himself, Ramrod Keene hated lawlessness and was loathe to associate with criminals. As he munched thoughtfully on his food he considered the possibility of saddling up and moving on. But his curiosity was disturbing him. He had noticed that quite a number of the men at the Lazy J seemed more like outlaws than genuine, hardworking cowhands. He couldn't describe exactly what told him that. There was something furtive in their manner.

"Wonder if Mr. Snavely knows about it?" he thought, as he rose from the table. "I wouldn't like to be the one to tell him. Yet he's treated me all right and I'd hate to see him taken in by a bunch of outlaws."

Mr. Snavely was the owner of the Lazy J. Ramrod had been told to report to him after chuck. He headed for Snavely's living quarters now.

"You've got a reputation as a good man with horses," said Snavely after inviting the tall cowhand to sit. "I'm getting some more, a whole lot more, and I'm thinking of putting you in charge of them."

"More horses?" Ramrod raised one eyebrow. "You've got enough horses. But I reckon if you want to buy more that's your business."

"Buy? Who mentioned buying them?"/

"I don't know but three ways to get a horse," said Ramrod slowly. "You buy it or somebody gives it to you or you . . ."

"You steal it!" Snavely finished. "We might as well get down to brass tacks. I know who you are."

"You do?" The cowman's astonishment was not feigned.

"Yes," said the ranch owner, "I do. And we're all in a big operation where we can make a lot of money. I need plenty of good horses. You're just the boy to rustle 'em for me. You'll get your cut. You'll be paid well. But that's not all."

"Not all?"

"No sir," responded Snavely, leaning back with hands clasped behind his neck. "Stick with me and you'll be a duke in my kingdom."

"Your kingdom?"

Snavely chuckled. "I realize it's a hard picture for you small time bandits to grasp. Your idea of a big haul is to grab a pouch of gold dust from the stage. But with my plan, I'll rule this whole territory. Soon I'll have the whole West. I'll have plenty of horses, plenty of men to ride 'em, plenty of guns and ammunition. And believe me, the men we've got are just like yourself. They shoot straight and shoot to kill."

"But I never killed anyone," protested Ramrod.

Snavely laughed again. It was a harsh, bitter laugh. "You're quite a kidder," he said. "You who are wanted in three states for murder, Mr. Montana Kid!"

AMROD KEENE was astonished and shocked at the sudden realization of what must have happened. A case of mistaken

ADVERTISEMENT



identity! He'd been hired at the Lazy J because someone mistook him for the Montana Kid!

Ramrod realized how it could happen. He knew the Montana Kid, a lead-slinging desperado, by reputation and description. Ramrod and the Kid had the same general dimensions. Both were tall and slender with broad shoulders. Both had fairly regular features. Both had shocks of unruly red hair. And, since the Montana Kid had a reputation for using aliases, it was not unthinkable that he should choose such a name as Ramrod Keene.

"There's no use denying that I am who I am," he said slowly to Snavely. "And I do know about horses and I'm always ready to make an honest dollar."

"Honest dollar!" chuckled Snavely. "You've got a real sense of humor, Mr. Montana Kid."

"I'd just as soon you wouldn't call me by that handle," said Ramrod, stalling for time. "It's safe enough," Snavely assured him.

"There's nobody here that'd go running to the law. All these hombres are in the same fix you are. If they don't all hang together, they'll all hang separately, as Benjamin Franklin said."

it. If it were soon discovered that he was not really the famous outlaw, his life would not be worth a snap. If, on the other hand, he successfully carried on the pretense, he'd surely become involved in crimes that would land a noose around his neck.

He made a decision quickly. He stood up and leaned across the desk. "I'll get horses," he said. "I'll bring them here. But remember this. I do it alone. I do it my way. And I'm not the Montana Kid!"

Ramrod turned on his heel, walked out swiftly, mounted his horse, and rode away from the ranch. He had been gone only an hour or so when a tall, red-headed man appeared in Snavely's doorway and said, "You're Snavely, aren't you? I'm sorry I'm late. Expected to sign on here most a week ago, but I had to detour to duck a posse. I'm the Montana Kid."

Snavely was worried. He had no doubt that this was the real Montana Kid. The man had a handbill with his own picture on it. Yet Snavely could not really call the other man an imposter. Ramrod had never claimed to be Montana. He had carefully denied it in fact.

A lookout shouted that horses were coming. Snavely and his band of outlaws could see them in the distance. They could see two dozen horses and one rider. There was no mistaking the tall man in the saddle. He was Ramrod Keene. He rode at the head of the procession of equines.

"Whew!" exclaimed Snavely. "He's a rustler after all. And fast. He may not be the Montana Kid, but he's O.K." He watched with a pleased smile as Ramrod and the horses dipped into a shallow ravine and trailed out of sight behind a hillock, heading for the winding road that would bring them to the ranch.

When next the horses came in sight they were already in the ranch yard, approaching the corral. One of the outlaws shouted a warning, but it was too late. A gun barked. The horses were now plunging straight toward Snavely and his crew. And on each of them appeared, as if by magic, a U. S. cavalryman, fully armed and ready to fight. They had been clinging to the offsides of the horses, Indian fighter style, as Ramrod led them upon the ranch from a distance. This had made the horses appear to be riderless.

THE battle was over swiftly and without much bloodshed. The outlaws, in the face of cavalry fire, were quick to throw down their guns. The Montana Kid, Killer Candra, Snavely and all the others were quickly captured.

"I promised to bring you some horses, Mr. Snavely." said Ramrod," and I knew the nearest place to get them would be from my old cavalry outfit camped just over the ridge. But my buddies kind of like their mounts and decided to come along with them, just for the ride. I hope this doesn't interfere too much with your plans to be King of the West."

THE END

ARVESTISEMENT

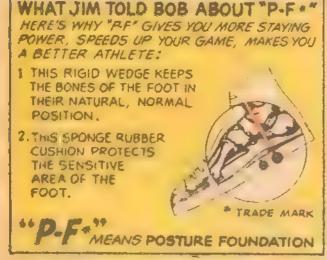
CHAMP to CHUMP-AND BACK AGAIN

ANOTHER JIM WISE "P-F" SPORTS STORY



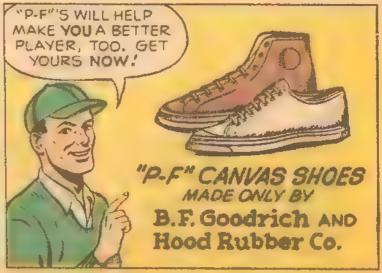






















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SOME DISTANCE FROM THE LUMBER CAMP















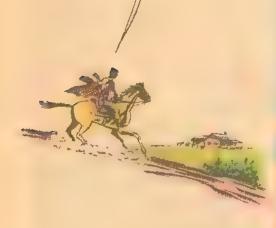


THET BLOW KNOCKED HIM COLD! I FIGGERED I COULD TAKE HIM BY SURPRISE! I'VE GOTTA RIDE FAST NOW! THAR MAY BE OTHERS FOLLOWING!





LL DUMP THIS SH RT --- HUH? LOOK AT THET! JUST WHUT I NEED --- A CLOTHESLINE WITH SOME NICE SHIRTS ON IT!







AND JUST AS THE KILLER ANTICIPATED ---



































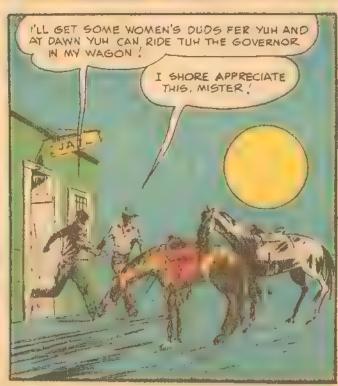








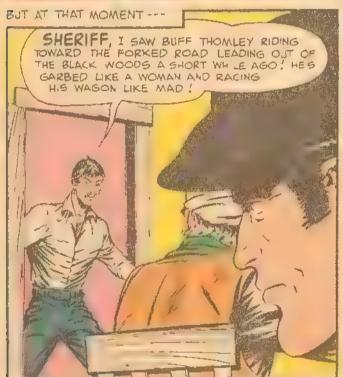














ROCKY SETS OUT FOR THE FORKED ROAD AND WITH BLACK JACK'S INCREDIBLE SPEED IT ISN'T LONG BEFORE ---











































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